CHRONOLOGY OF CAST COINS OF VAIŚĀLĪ

BY

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Of the coins, that were unearthed from the sporadic stratified diggings within a radius of five kilometres at Vaiśālī, the largest number was occupied by uninscribed copper cast coins. The inscribed cast coin was very rare. Their occurrence in largest numbers in association with the punch-marked coins and the Northern Black Polished Ware suggests their real contemporaneity with these antiquities. These cast coins were of two types, rectangular and circular. The frequency of the rectangular type was ten times more than that of the circular one. Both the obverse and the reverse of the rectangular variety generally showed four and rarely five symbols, whereas those of the circular one had only one symbol. The weight of the former type of coins ranged from 0.276 to 3.568 grams, while the circular coins weighed between 0.848 and 2.843 grams.

Out of sixty-two rectangular varieties thirty-two were found from Period II (6th—2nd centuries B. C. , ten from period III (2nd century B.C.—A.D. 200), nine from period IV (A.D. 200 - 600), three from period V (A.D. post—600), three from the embankment of an olden tank and five from the surface itself. This frequency bears witness to the fact that the coins, under review, were under circulation between sixth and second centuries B. C., and subsequently they survived as collections of private individuals at least in this region. Since the coins from the same period weighed differently, excavations could not ascertain the earliest weight-standard.

The associated inscribed objects from period II represented terracotta sealings and tokens with inscriptions beloning to the third and second centuries B. C. The ceramic finds of the period included a few sherds of the fine varieties of the Black-and-Red and the N. B. P. Wares and the coarse variety of the Painted Grey Ware. The silver and copper punch-marked coins were also not lacking in this period. Such terracotta human

1. *Vaiśālī Excavations :* 1950, Vaisali Sangha, Vaisali, 1961; *Vaiśālī Excavations 1958 62,* Patna, 1969.

2. *Vaiśālī Excavations 1958-62*, pp. 115-119,

and animal figurines, both hand-modelled and moulded specimens, beads of semi-precious stones, bone arrow-heads and points etc., as are found elsewhere in association with the N. B. P. Ware, were also the associated antiquities of the cast coins under review.

Coins with more symbols (usually four on both sides viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross, tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and taurine on the obverse and elephant, taurine, svastika and triangular-headed symbol on the reverse) were picked up in greatest frequency even from period II, whereas those with less symbols were negligible at any site of the locality.

From the above study it may also be inferred that the copper cast coins of the rectangular variety were earlier than the circular specimens. Next, among the rectangular coins, those with four symbols were in great majority and also anterior in time. Since coins with different weight-standards were found together it was difficult to ascertain which standard was the earliest.

Table showing level-wise and locality-wise occurrence

RĀJĀ BIŚĀLA KĀ GARH̤

S. No. 1	Shape 2	Obverse 3	Reverse 4	Weight 5	Depth 6	Reg. No. 7
1.	Rectangular	Tree in railing remaining indistinct.	Ujjain symbol, remaining indistinct.	0.969	Surface	1857/G VECC, No. 52
2.	Rectangular	Some blurred symbols.	Some blurred symbols.	0.276 grams	Surface	2519 A/G VECC, No. 43
3.	Cirular	Three arched crescented hill.	Elephant standing to left.	2.843 grams	3″	1025/G VECC, No. 82
4.	Rectangular	Badly defaced.	Badly defaced some animal visible.	1.009 grams	1′2″	149/G VECC, No. 51
5.	Rectangular	Three symbols, viz., lion facing a tree in railing to his left, *svastika* and triskeles.	Tiger catching hold of some small or animal with mouth. Ujjain symbol above the animal.	1.887 grams	1′6″	1812/G VECC. No. 48
6.	Rectangular	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.871 grams	1′8″	1182/G VECC, No. 66
7.	Rectangular	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.352 grams	1′9″	2200/G VECC, No. 71
8.	Rectangular	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.496 grams	2′2″	215/G VECC, No. 74

1 *VECC* stands for "*Vaisali Excavations 1958-62*, Catalogue of coins" and no. stands for serial number.

9.	Rectangular	Tree in railing remaining defaced.	Badly defaced	0.343 grams	2′4″	212/G VECC, No. 70
10.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left, remaining indistinct.	Elephant facing a triangular headed symbol, Ujjain symbol above the animal.	1.633 grams	2′5″	102/G VECC, No. 37
11.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left, svastika and triskeles.	Tiger catching hold of some smaller animal; Ujjain symbol above the animal	1.059 grams	2′7″	332/G VECC, No 45
12.	Rectangular	Tree in railing; remaining indistinct.	Triangular-headed symbol and Ujjain symbol remaining indistinct.	0.551 grams	2′9″	228/G VECC, No. 55
13.	Rectangular	Badly defaced	Badly defaced only taurine Symbol clear.	0.904 gram	4′1″	2511/G VECC, No. 35
14.	Circular	Three arched cresented hill.	Elephant standing to left.	0.848 gram	4′2″	274/G
15.	Rectangular (almost square)	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.546 gram	4′8″	328/G VECC, No. 83
16.	Rectangular	Defaced	Defaced.	2.087 grams	5′4″	1292/G VECC, No. 62
17.	Rectangular	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.573 gram	6′0″	2022/G VECC, No. 73
18.	Unascertainable	Tree in railing; remaining defaced.	Blurred	1.042 grams	7′7″	1469/G VECC, No. 64
19.	Rectangular	*Svastika*; remaining blurred.	Blurred	0.395 gram	8′0″	1609/G VECC, No. 68

20.	Rectangular (almost square)	Tree in railing clear; remaining indistinct.	Badly defaced.	0.469 gram	8′1″	1607/G VECC, No. 69
21.	Rectangular	Five symbols; viz., tree in railing and a snake-like symbol to its right; others indistinct.	Some symbols, but badly defaced.	0.678 gram	8′5″	2588/G VECC, No. 30
22.	Rectangular	Squre cross; others indistinct.	Elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk; others indistinct.	2.281 grams	8′6″	2288/G VECC, No. 20
23.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves. *Svastika* above the animal.	An animal with fish-like thing in mouth, facing a triagular-headed symbol. Ujjain symbol and ladder-like symbol above the animal.	0.776 gram	8′9″	2614/G VECC No. 44
24.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to his left, *Svastika* and triskeles.	Tiger catching hold of some smaller animal with mouth. Ujjain symbol above the animal.	0.953 gram	8′10″	2592/G VECC, No. 48
25.	Rectangular (almost square but one corner elongated)	For symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, taurine square cross and tree in railing with ovate lancelate leaves.	Four symbols, viz., taurine, elephant holding branch of tree with trunk, *Svastika* and triangular headed symbol.	0.940 gram	9′0″	2774/G VECC, No. 29

26.	Rectangular	Chakra symbol; other indistinct.	Blurred	0.508 gram	9′0″	2775/G VECC No. 57
27.	Rectangular	Blurred	Blurred. Only impression of an animal visible.	1.100 grams	9′3″	1885/G VECC, No. 40
28.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left, *Svastika* and triskeles.	Tiger catching hold of some smaller animal with mouth, Ujjain symbol above the animal.	1.378 grams	9′4″	1876/GM VECC, No. 53
29.	Rectangular	Lion facing tree in railing; others indistinct.	Defaced. Possibly some animal catching hold of something with mouth, facing .probably a triangular-headed symbol to the left.	0.809 grams	8′4″	1671/G VECC, No. 41
30.	Rectangular	As no. 28.	As no. 28.	1.426 gram	8′4″	1672/G VECC, No. 42
31.	Rectangular	Three symbols, viz., tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leave, Ujjain symbol and the hird indistinct.	Three symbols, viz. triangular-headed symbol, some animal to its right and the third indistinct.	0.824 gram	9′4″	1880/ VECC, No. 47
32.	Unascertainable, since partly missing.	Badly corroded	Badly corroded	0.724 gram	9′8″	1693/G VECC, No. 67

33.	Rectangular	Four symbol, viz., tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves, square cross, others indistinct.	Four symbols, viz., elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk, *Svastika* and triangular-headed symbol.	3.568 grams	9′10″	1695/G VECC, No. 19
34.	Rectangular	Two symbols, viz.. tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and caduceus.	Tow symbols, viz., some animal and possibly some triangular-headed symbol.	0.968 grams	9′11″	1431/G VECC, No. 49
35.	Rectangular	Badly correded. symbol of an animal visible, others indistinct.	Badly corroded. symbol of animal visible, others indistinct.	0.597 grams	10′0″	1780/G VECC, No. 54
36.	Rectangular	Defaced	Defaced	0.539 grams	10′0″	1696/G VECC, No. 76
37.	Rectangular	Blurred. Only one symbol, viz., taurine distinct.	Ujjain symbol and some animal below it; remaining indistinct.	0.632 grams	10′1″	1692/G VECC, No. 50
38.	Rectangular	Three symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross, and tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Three symbols, viz., elephant facing a taurine to left and below the triangular-headed symbol.	3 275 grams	10′2″	1124/G VECC, No. 46
39.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to eft remaining indistinct.	Elephant facing a triangular-headed symbol; remaining indistinct.	1.078 grams	10′6″	2574/G

40.	Rectangular	Four symbols, viz., tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves, three arched erescented hill, taurine and the fourth indistinct.	Four symbols, viz., triangular-headed symbol, square cross, *Svastika* and elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk.	3.296 grams	11′3″	1243/G VECC, No. 18
41.	Rectangular	Four symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and taurine symbol.	Four symbols, viz., taurine, elephant. *Svastika* and triangular-headed symbol.	2.669 grams	12′1″	1138/G VECC, No. 26
42.	Rectangular	As No. 28	As No. 28	1.133 grams	14′2″	549/G VECC, No. 39

KHARAUNA TANK AREA

S.No. 1	Shape 2	Obverse 3	Reverse 4	Weight 5	Depth 6	Reg., No. 7
1.	Rectangular	Blurred	Badly corroded	0.568 grams	Surface	1504/K VECC, No. 60
2.	Rectangular	Blurreed	Blurred	1.321 grams	Surface	1503/K VECC, No.65
3.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left; remaining indistinct.	Elephant facing a triangular-headed symbol; remaining indistinct.	1.288 grams	Surface	1220/K VEC, No. 38
4.	Pectangular (almost square)	Four symbols, Viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross, tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and taurine symbol.	For symbols, viz., taurine, elephant, *Svastika* and the fourth indistinct.	2.289 grams	5″ (tank embarkment.)	1219/K VECC, No. 27
5.	Rectangular (longish)	Four symbols viz , three-arched crescented hill, taurine, square cross and tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Four symbols, viz , taurine, elephant holding a branch of tree with his trunk, *Svastika*, and traingular-headed symbol.	3.340 grams	4′7″ (tank-embankment.)	1420/K

6.	Rectangular	Four symbols, viz., tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves, three arched crescented hill, taurine and triangular-headed symbol,	Badly defaced.	1.250 grams	3′0″	1119/K VECC, No. 59
7.	Rectangular	Blurred	Blurred	1.478 grams	3′4″	1221/K VECC, No. 63
8.	Circular	One symbol, viz., three arched crescented hill.	One symbol, viz., elephant standing to left.	2.138 grams	5′6″	3011/K VECC. No. 78
9.	Rectangular	Lion or tiger facing a tree in railing with lanceolate leaves; others indistinct.	Blurred symbols.	2.840 grams	2′5″	331/K VECC, No. 24
10.	Rectangular	Tree in railing; others indistinct.	Tiger catching hold of some smaller animal with mouth; Ujjain symbol over the animal.	1.352 grams	6′7″	954/K VECC, No. 56

11.	Circular	One symbol, viz., three arched crescented hill.	One symbol, viz., Elephant standing to left.	1,018 grams	6′8″	2052/K VECC, No. 80
12.	Rectangular (alomost square)	Four symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross, tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and taurine symbol.	Four symbol, viz; taurine, elephant *Svastika* and the fourth symbol indistinct.	3.482 grams	7′0″	970/K VEEC, No. 16
13.	Rectangular	Four symbols, viz. three arched crescented hill, taurine, square cross ,and tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Four symbols, viz.; triangular headed symbols, *Svastika* and elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk and taurine above the animal.	1.570 grams	13′4″	1956/K VECC, No. 22

BUDDHA STUPA AREA

Sl. No. 1	Shape 2	Obverse 3	Reverse 4	Weight 5	Depth 6	Reg. No. 7
1.	Rectangular	Some animal standing to left remaining blurred. Some blurred inscription also.	Blurred	1.051 grams	2′4″	333/K VECC, No. 72
2.	Rectangular (almost spuare)	Four symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, taurine square cross, and tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Four symbols, viz , taurine, elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk, *Svastika* and triangular - headed symbol.	2.849 grams	2′5″	331/K VECC, No. 24
3.	Rectangular (partly missing)	Badly corroded.	Badly corroded.	0.889 grams	2′5″	20/K VECC, No. 28
4.	Circular	One symbol, viz., three arched crescented hill.	One symbol viz., elephant standing to left.	1.408 grams	2′6″	113/K VECC, No. 79

5.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left; remaining indistinct.	Elephant facing a triangular-headed symbol; remaining indistinct.	0.920 grams	2′7″	334/K VECC, No. 36
6.	Rectangular	Lion facing a tree in railing to left, *Svastika* and triskeles.	Tiger catching hold of some smaller animal with mouth, Ujjain symbol above the tiger.	0.886 grams	3′2″	11/K VECC, No. 77
7.	Rectangular	Three symbols, viz., square cross, tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves and the third indistinct.	Three symbols, viz., *Svastika* tree in railing and the third indistinct.	2.302 grams	3′10″	146/K VECC, No. 17
8.	Rectangular	Four symbols, viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross, tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Three symbols, viz., Elephant facinga taurine to left and below the triangular-headed symbol.	0.815 grams	4′10″	50/K VECC, No. 61

CHAKRAMDAS AND ADJOININGS

Sl, No.	Shape	Obverse	Reverse	Weight	Depth	Reg. No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Rectangular (almost square)	Four symbols, viz., tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves, three arched crescented hill, taurine and triangular-headed symbol.	Four symbols, viz., triangular - headed symbol, square cross, *Svastika* and elephant holding a branch of tree with trunk.	3.093 grams	10″	3557/C VECC, No. 32
2.	Circular	One symbol, viz., three arched crescented hill.	One symbols, viz., elephant standing grams to left.	1.551 grams	1′3″	3568/C VECC, No. 81
3.	Rectangular (almost square)	Four symbols, viz ; three arched crescented hill, square cross; tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Four symbols, viz.; taurine, elephant, *Svastika* and the fourth indistinct.	3.117 grams	1′7″	3575/C VECC, No. 21

4.	Rectangular	Three symbols; viz., three arched crescented hill, square cross and tree in railing with ovate lanceolate leaves.	Three symbols, viz., elephant facing taurine to left and below the traingular headed symbol.	2.954 grams	1'10"	3579/C VECC, No. 31

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